



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Southern Regional Office (SRO)
400 W. Congress, Suite 433, Tucson, AZ 85701

**DRAFT Minutes of the
Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF)
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting – 15th Meeting**

May 7, 2003, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Nanini Library, 7300 N. Shannon Road, Tucson, Arizona

W-10000.6.6.2

CAB Members Present: Susan Bjerke, Gary Burchard, James Eigel, Terri Hutts, Fran LaSala, Al Pesqueira, Gary Pitman, Eleanor Towne

CAB Members Absent: Bob Ornelas, Sam Riechers

ADEQ Staff Present: Michael Romero, Project Manager; Melissa Hayes, Community Involvement Coordinator

Members of the Public Present: Mike Block, Dave Eaker, Chris North, Glenna Rader

The meeting began at 6:05 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Gary Pitman, CAB co-chair, welcomed members and conducted introductions. Each of the CAB members then briefly introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes – 1/29/03

Terri Hutts asked about the fourth paragraph on page 3, in the sentence, "The sampling results for the Z-006A well were flawed, possibly because of not decontaminating the well before it was sampled...". She asked if it was the well that was not decontaminated, or something else. Michael Romero said that it should refer to decontaminating the sampling equipment rather than the well. He said that the reason that it was resampled in the first place was because some contaminants that had never been detected there before were detected, and it was traced back to improper decontamination of the equipment. Mike Block said that the question was whether the Z-006A well had been pumped long enough in order to get a representative sample. Gary Burchard motioned to table the minutes until the next meeting; Al Pesqueira seconded the motion. Melissa Hayes will check the tape from the last meeting and will revise the minutes with any change.

3. CAB Membership Discussion

-Vote on New Member Applications: Lonny Davis and Chris North

-Vote to Accept CAB Member Resignation: Sam Riechers

Terri Hutts motioned to wait until the applicants were present to vote on their applications; Gary Pitman seconded. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed. Al Pesqueira said Sam Riechers submitted a letter of resignation from the CAB, which Terri Hutts read to the CAB. Terri Hutts motioned

to accept Sam Riechers' resignation; Ellie Towne seconded. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed.

4. Final Nominations and Vote on CAB Co-Chairs for Next Term:

-Nominees: Bob Ornelas, Al Pesqueira, Gary Pitman

Melissa Hayes said that she informed Bob Ornelas about being nominated as a CAB co-chair, but she had not heard if he accepted his nomination. Gary Burchard motioned to elect Al Pesqueira for a second term as co-chair; Terri Hutts seconded. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed. Gary Burchard motioned to elect Gary Pitman for a second term as co-chair; Al Pesqueira seconded. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed. Al Pesqueira and Gary Pitman were elected as co-chairs for the next term.

5. Site Updates – Michael Romero, ADEQ Project Manager

Michael Romero said that ADEQ recently installed several monitor wells. The W-30 well, consisting of two individual wells, was installed on Shannon Road, just south of Rillito Creek, between the El Camino del Cerro and Shannon Road-Rillito Creek contaminant plumes. There are three monitoring intervals, and the wells were drilled using the rotosonic method. He offered to do a presentation on drilling methods at a future CAB meeting. Detections of PCE and TCE were found at the interval at 205-235 feet below ground surface (bgs), but no detections were found in the shallow or deep intervals. The contamination was found deeper than in nearby wells, but the well was also drilled deeper. The data suggests that there could be vertical migration from a source to the south that is driving the contamination down to a deeper interval.

Pima County granted access to property between Metro Water's South Shannon well and DeConcini well where three adjacent monitor wells (W-31) will be installed to better define the plume, and act as a sentinel monitoring point for the DeConcini well. They will be installed on the east side of Shannon Road, on the side of the road by the wash. Access was also granted for property west of the South Shannon well, near Peglar Wash Park, where another monitor well (W-35) will be installed. A proposed monitor well east of the South Shannon well has been delayed because of access issues, and will most likely not be installed this fiscal year.

ADEQ was granted access from the owner of property where the W-34 well will be installed along Casa Grande Highway. The property is on an easement controlled by the Arizona Department of Transportation, but ADEQ had to get access from the private property owner. The W-33 well should be drilled soon on property on Camino de la Tierra. This well would help see if a potential groundwater source carries on to the north at a deeper interval. Both of these wells will be constructed similarly to the W-30 well.

ADEQ conducted soil sampling in 2001 in Western Trailer Park, which was part of the former AMRI Oil facility, which showed low detections of lead in the vacant lot in the southeast corner. Follow-up sampling was recently performed, which indicated that two locations along the fenceline in the southeastern section of the park had detections of lead above the soil remediation levels. ADEQ will do a tighter grid of samples to help determine areas of lead-contaminated soil to be removed in a small-scale shallow soil excavation.

Terri Hutts asked about the former AMRI facility, now the Wrecksperts property, which is currently for sale. She said that since the owners of Wrecksperts have been firm about not letting ADEQ onto the property, she asked if it would help if the CAB wrote a letter requesting access. She said that more documentation of attempts to gain access, including a letter from the CAB, might make it easier to get access. Fran LaSala said that the ADEQ Director has the authority to go onto the property, if he feels that it has an impact to public health and safety; he suggested that the letter be written to the ADEQ Director.

Michael Romero said that in lieu of getting on the property, ADEQ is trying to assess health risks to nearby residents, using data from the activities that have taken place on the Wrecksperts property in the past, and current investigations in the area.

ADEQ has also installed monitoring devices called flux boxes along the southern edge of Western Trailer Park, and collected the first round of samples to see if any volatile organic compound (VOC) vapors might be coming out of the soil into the atmosphere. He said that there used to be open pits of recyclable oil near where the fenceline is now. The sampling will help determine if any health risks are posed by soil vapor contaminants that may exist on the former AMRI Oil property. He said that there could be a group of VOC vapors continuing to contaminate groundwater. ADEQ would like to do a risk assessment, based on new guidelines by the Environmental Protection Agency, to see if there could be any potential risks.

He said that the W-24 well in Western Trailer Park has historically had the highest concentrations in the area. Soil borings down to the groundwater were previously performed in the southeast corner of Western Trailer Park and nothing was detected. ADEQ recently installed the W-32 well on Western Stucco property to try to catch the heart of the plume that could be coming from across or near Interstate 10, and to detect any contamination from a possible source to the south. PCE and TCE were detected above regulatory levels in the shallow interval of the well.

Al Pesqueira said that ADEQ should send the request for access to Wrecksperts up the chain of command, since ADEQ has probable cause to get on the property, and he didn't think that the CAB should be writing a letter. Michael Romero said that ADEQ is trying to gain information by assessing potential health risks, and there may be a stronger case to show that there are still data gaps. Terri Hutts felt that if it is a continuing source of contamination to the groundwater and could be a health risk, a more aggressive position should be taken. Michael Romero said that if it is a continuing source to groundwater, no one would be at risk through that pathway, since no one should be drinking contaminated water in this area since they receive their water from Tucson Water. He said that ADEQ knew that lead was on the property before, and a soil removal action took place. Now, ADEQ is doing the flux box monitoring, and assessing potential risks. Michael Romero said that ADEQ is still in the early stages of determining any health risks in this area, and it may be that an early response action is needed prior to the final remedy for the entire site.

Gary Burchard said that if it is a continuing source of groundwater contamination, then the threat may not be on the property, but at wells that are pumping downgradient, and he said that perhaps this could be a linkage between the two WQARF Sites. He said that if it is said that there is not an immediate threat on the property, the Director might not want to get onto the property, and it should be asked if this is a threat to groundwater downgradient. It was suggested that a letter be written to the ADEQ Director and copy the property owner, and if the CAB moves quickly, it might get into the budget. Michael Romero said that the former AMRI Oil property is a potential source area, along with the El Camino del Cerro Landfill, which could both be contributing to the contamination. He said that the final remedy for the whole site should include all potential sources, but not enough information has been gathered yet as to whether an early response action is needed. Fran LaSala said that if the letter is sent to the property owner, he might realize that by ADEQ getting on the property, the phase 2 investigation needed to sell the property would be performed; Michael Romero said that he has made that point to the property owner.

Dave Eaker said that ADEQ was on the property in the past. Michael Romero said that ADEQ's Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation (PASI) Unit did an early response action, in the form of a soil removal for lead and petroleum-contaminated soil, in the mid-1990s, but ADEQ suspects that contamination could remain in the soil in the gaseous form. Dave Eaker said that the residents had elevated levels of lead in their blood, so the soil removal was done on the basis of health risk. Michael

Romero said that the site workplan had proposed work to be done on the Western Stucco/Western Trailer Park property, as well as Wrecksperts property.

Michael Romero said that the south side of what is now Western Trailer Park was near where the former oil operations were for AMRI Oil. Michael Romero said that the soil contamination was addressed in the soil removal action, but the groundwater had not been assessed. He said that there may have been a small section on the northeast side that was never excavated, which is what initiated sampling across the fenceline in that area. Contaminants that were in the oil can still be present in vapor phase below the excavated area of soil. He said that soil vapor extraction could be a way to remove any remaining vapors.

He also said that flux box monitoring is being done at the former E.C. Winter property where contaminated soil was excavated during the soil removal action in 2001. The first round of samples was collected, and another round is due in June. Results will be used to determine if any health risks are posed by remaining soil vapor contaminants which exist under the clean fill, and will be used in determining a final remedy for the site. Not enough is known about the surrounding area to implement a soil vapor extraction system on the E.C. Winter property at this time.

Water levels and water quality samples were not collected during the first quarter of 2003, except for in the newly installed monitor wells. Michael Romero said that the WQARF program's priority during next fiscal year is to continue remediation that has been going on. The WQARF Budget will be divided between all WQARF sites, based on priorities of the sites, immediate health risks and how they can be assessed. At the Shannon Road-Rillito Creek WQARF Site, ADEQ has an agreement with Metro Water to fund the operation and maintenance of the treatment system at the South Shannon well. ADEQ's monitoring at the well will be continued quarterly, and other monitor wells will be sampled quarterly or biannually. Data interpretation and report writing will be done in-house by ADEQ, along with the Land and Water Use studies, with CAB input.

Jim Eigel asked if the South Shannon well could be shut down if it is found that pumping is affecting the groundwater flow. Michael Romero said that it could be something to be determined as a Remedial Objective, but first, a better picture of what is going on with the contamination is needed.

Terri Hutts motioned that the CAB write a letter to the ADEQ Director saying that they are extremely concerned that ADEQ has not been able to get on the Wrecksperts property, and if this is a source, there needs to be an early response to mitigate the source; Ellie Towne seconded. The CAB requested background on the Wrecksperts property, and a chronology of ADEQ's involvement. Terri Hutts amended the motion to say that the CAB will discuss writing a letter to the ADEQ Director at the next meeting; Ellie seconded it.

6. Call to the Public

Chris North was now present at the meeting, so the CAB discussed his application. He said that he is a biology teacher at Greenfields Country Day School, and has been in Tucson for 4 ½ years. Gary Burchard motioned to accept Chris North's application, Ellie Towne seconded. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed. Chris North was voted onto the CAB. The CAB decided to table Lonny Davis's application until the next meeting, since he was not present.

Glenna Rader asked why the W-32 well on Western Stucco property was installed where it was. Michael Romero said that the well was installed where it was because the groundwater flows in that direction, and this deep well would help determine if any contamination is coming from the El Camino del Cerro Landfill.

Mike Block said that Metro Water understood that the CAB was interested in learning about the treatment system at the South Shannon well. He said that Metro Water has an operation and maintenance agreement with ADEQ for the treatment system, and it might be helpful for the CAB to learn about the system and difficulties being faced as concentrations increase in the well. The system was designed for a set maximum concentration, and it is being exceeded. Metro Water requested ADEQ funding to do a Feasibility Study to modify the treatment system. He offered to do a presentation on the treatment system, and the CAB accepted. He said CAB members could tour the treatment system, and they could visit the system individually with an appointment with Metro Water; the CAB preferred this. Melissa Hayes reminded the CAB that there could not be a majority of CAB members in one place at the same time, or it would be considered a meeting according to Open Meeting Law, and the tour would have to be publicly noticed.

7. CAB Discussion of Responses to CAB Letter to Governor

CAB members said that they each received a response from Senator Toni Hellon to the letter they wrote urging the restoration of WQARF funding. They also received a response from ADEQ Director, Stephen Owens, and a response from Speaker of the House, Jake Flake.

8. CAB Outreach Discussion

Terri Hutts, Ellie Towne, Gary Burchard and Gary Pitman said that they were going to be interviewed for a study by a researcher at the University of Arizona about how efficient public outreach is.

9. Other Administrative Business

Melissa Hayes said that she emailed the last doorhanger to the CAB, but some couldn't open it, so she will cut and paste the text in an email next time.

10. Future Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion

The next CAB meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2003 at the Nanini Library, large meeting room, 7300 N. Shannon Rd., Tucson, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Call Melissa Hayes, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, for meeting details and proposed agenda. Proposed agenda items included the approval of the revised 1/29/03 minutes; vote on Lonny Davis's application; a chronology of ADEQ contacts with the owner of Wrecksperts; CAB discussion of a letter regarding access to Wrecksperts; and a presentation on the South Shannon treatment system by Metro Water.

11. Adjournment

Gary Pitman motioned to adjourn the meeting; Al Pesqueira seconded the motion. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on cassette tapes as a record of the proceedings. To listen to the tape, or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.